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¶ By the King.

¶ A Proclamation for the ſuppreſsing of profane Swearing and Curſing.

WHereas at a Parliament begun and holden at Weſtminſter the nineteenth day of Februarie, in the one and twentieth yeere of the Reigne of our late moſt deare and Royall Father, King Iames of euer bleſſed memory (amongſt other good and wholeſome Lawes then made and eſtabliſhed for the Weale-publike of this Realme) it was enacted by the authority of the ſame Parliament, that no perſon or perſons ſhould from thenceforth prophanely Sweare or Curſe, vnder the penalties therein contained. We taking into Our Princely conſideration, the great increaſe of thoſe ſinnes, which are the more audaciouſly practiſed, and frequently committed by looſe and wicked perſons, in regard the ſaid Statute made for preuention and reſtraint thereof, is not conſtantly put in execution, haue therefore with the aduice of Our Priuie Councill (for the better repreſſing of thoſe odious ſinnes) by Our Letters Patents dated the one and twentieth day of July laſt paſt, erected an office for the receiuing of the forfeitures incurred by ſuch prophane Swearers and Curſers: And repoſing much truſt and confidence in the fidelity, induſtry, wiſedome, and pietie of Our welbeloued ſeruant Robert Leſlie Eſquire, one of the Gentlemen of our Priuie-Chamber, haue thereby ordained and appointed, that he by himſelfe, or his ſufficient Aſſignes or Deputies, and none other perſon (except the Juſtices of Peace, Conſtables, Churchwardens, Ouerſeers of the poore, and others by the ſaid Statute authorized) ſhall in euery Pariſh within this Our Realme of England, and Dominion of Wales, attend that ſeruice and office,

and for a certaine number of yeares therein contained, shall and may receiue the Penalties appointed by the said Statute, from all and euery person and persons liuing within Our said Realme and Dominion, offending against the tenor of the same (who haue not paid the said Penalty to any the persons authorized by the said Statute, to receiue the same before it be demanded by Our said seruant, his Assignes or Deputies) wherein we haue taken especiall care, that security be giuen for the faithfull collecting of those Penalties, and for a true accompt and payment of the same twice euery yeere vnto the Bishops of the Dioceses, wherein the same shall be receiued, by whose care and order the moneys thereby arising shall bee iustly distributed amongst Our poore subiects of the Parishes where the Offences are or shall be committed, according as by the same Statute is limited and appointed.

And therefore We do hereby strictly charge and command all manner of persons liuing in Our said Kingdome of England and Dominion of Wales, to be conformable in all things vnto Our Royall will and pleasure in Our said letters Patents mentioned and contained. And to the end Our said seruant, his Assignes and Deputies may the more readily and sincerely performe the trust in them reposed: We do hereby grant, publish, and declare, that Our said Seruant, his Assignes and Deputies, and euery of them shall be hereafter exempted and freed from bearing any other office or charge in the Parishes where he and they shall dwell, during the time that they shall be imployed in this seruice, to the end that they may the better looke to the execution of the foresaid Statute, in regard the same so highly tendeth to the aduancement of piety, and releife of the poore.

And We doe hereby require and command all our Iustices, Iustices of peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Magistrates, Bailiffes, Constables, Church-wardens, Ouerseers of the poore, and all other Our Officers, Ministers, and Subiects, within Our said Kingdome and Dominion of Wales, to whom it shall appertaine, to be aiding, helping, and assisting to Our said Seruant, his Assignes and Deputies, in all things concerning the Premises, as they tender Our pleasure, and will auoid the contrary at their vttermost perils.

Giuen at Our Court at Oatelands, the six and twentieth day of Iuly, in the eleuenth yeare of Our reigne.

God saue the King.

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